

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated May 10, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to the points of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25-37 and 39 are pending. Claims 2, 17, 20, 21, 24 and 38 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-6, 12, 18, 22 and 25 are amended above. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-5, 17-20, 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) or 35 USC 102(e) over US Patent No. 6,548,197 (Chandran) or WO 01/12755 (Chandan). Claims 1-20, 22, 23, 25-37 and 39 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over published US Patent Application No. 2002/0174659 (Viteri), in view of Chandran and/or US Patent No. 6,062,018 (Bussing). The Examiner indicated that Claims 21, 24 and 38 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the claims.

Claim 1 is amended above to include the additional recitations of original claims 2, 17, 20 and 21. The Examiner indicated that original Claim 21 contained allowable subject matter. Claims 3-16, 18 and 19 depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3-16, 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the rejections of these claims under 35 USC 102(b)/102(e) and/or 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 22 is rewritten above in independent form and to include the additional recitations of original Claim 24. The Examiner indicated the original Claim 24 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 23 depends from Claim 22. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22 and 23 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the rejections of these claims under 35 USC 102(b)/102(e) and 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 25 is amended above to include the additional recitation of original Claim 38. The Examiner indicated that original Claim 38 contained allowable subject matter. Claims 26-37 and 39 depend from Claim 25. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 25-37 and 39 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request

that the rejections of these claims under 35 USC 102(b)/102(e) and/or 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, namely Claims 1, 3-16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25-37 and 39, are patentably distinguishable over the cited art, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections of Claims 1, 3-16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25-37 and 39 under 35 USC 102(b)/102(e) and/or 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

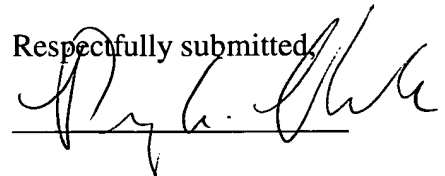
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Please charge all applicable fees associated with the submittal of this Response and any other fees applicable to this application to the Assignee's Deposit Account No. 07-0868.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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